water is not very good especially for Mundakan, mainly for two reasons. The time for pumping water is small. The Mundakan will not be ready to receive water before Makaram; and there will not be enough of water in the kole lands to be pumped out. There were only 12 or 15 days' time to pump out water from kole lands to the Mundakan lands. The time for storing water is very limited that enough water cannot be stored. So that scheme did not appear to be a good one.

459. **Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Government have been investigating any major scheme of irrigation to water kole lands;

(b) if so, what are the schemes;

(c) whether the Chief Engineer has submitted his preliminary report in favour of the Thanikudam scheme;

(d) who investigated the scheme in connection with the preliminary report;

(e) whether the final report has been submitted to the Government by the Engineering Department;

(f) who investigated the scheme in connection with the final report;

(g) whether the final report is in favour of the scheme or not;

(h) if it is not in favour of the scheme, what are the particular reasons weighing with such officer to decide against the preliminary report;

(i) whether the Chief Engineer has not represented in the Legislative Council during the last budget debate in connection with the question of irrigation that the said scheme is a promising one and that actual working of the scheme will be taken up during the next financial year and completed in the course of 3 years;

(j) whether the Chief Engineer has scrutinised the final report in respect of the same scheme;

(k) whether any estimate was submitted by the officer who submitted the final report;

(l) if so, whether the Chief Engineer has examined the estimate;

(m) if the report and the estimate have been scrutinised, what is his decision in the matter;

(n) whether the Government have passed final orders in respect of the scheme;

(o) if so, will the Government be pleased to state the order thereon;

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(p) if the decision is in favour of the scheme, will the Government be pleased to provide in the next budget and take up the scheme next year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes

(b) 1. The Chalakkudi diversion scheme.
2. The Thanikkudam scheme.

(c) Yes.

(d) Mr. A. George, Special Assistant Engineer.

(e) The final report on the scheme is under preparation.

(f) Mr. A. George, Special Assistant Engineer.

(g) Vide Answer to (e).

(h) The Chalakkudi river diversion scheme is evidently the better scheme and every effort should be made to explore it before launching on the Thanikkudam scheme for the benefit of kole lands.

(i) He expressed the opinion given in answer to sub-division (h).

(j) It is being scrutinised.

(k) No.

l) The estimate will have to be prepared when submitting the final report to the Government.

(m) Vide answer to above.

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Mr. C. V. Kuriyan —May I know how long were the new schemes investigated by the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Chalakkudi diversion scheme was brought first to the notice of the Government 13 years ago, and we have completed the survey of the major portion of the diversion in 1103. But the question is pending for the settlement of certain questions, and the Government are at present taking urgent action to settle them. The Thannikudam scheme was investigated in 1093 and the final report is under preparation.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—May I know how long will that take to settle the question?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Since it is an interstatal matter, nothing definite can be said. It will be settled within 3 years or we may take more time.

460. Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that kole-owners are willing to pay irrigation cess if proper system of irrigation is made available by the Government to kole cultivators?

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